

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 29, 2006

The Honorable Margaret Spellings  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Spellings:

We are writing to express concern over the Department of Education's recent "Proposed Guidance on Maintaining, Collecting and Reporting Data on Race and Ethnicity to the U.S. Department of Education." We understand that the Department expects to begin to implement these guidelines in the fall of 2006 in order to comply with the Office of Management and Budget's 1997 "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," with implementation to be completed by the fall of 2009.

While we understand the need for the Department to implement OMB's revised standards, it has been brought to our attention that the Department's proposed changes could undermine efforts to track academic progress longitudinally by racial and ethnic subgroup. This is of the utmost concern to us, and we must learn more about the potential impact of the proposed changes before the Department moves forward. Disaggregated racial and ethnic data, as you well know, is one of the cornerstones of the No Child Left Behind Act, and we urge the Department to refrain from any changes that could undermine this principle in any way.


We are especially concerned about the limited time given for proposed changes to be analyzed before implementation. We strongly urge the Department to refrain from implementing proposed standards until they can be fully examined. We will contact your office within the next week to set up a meeting to discuss this urgent matter.

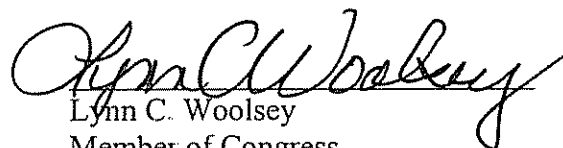
We anxiously await your response.

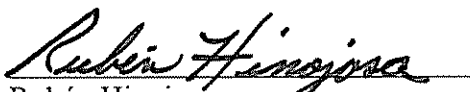
Sincerely,


  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

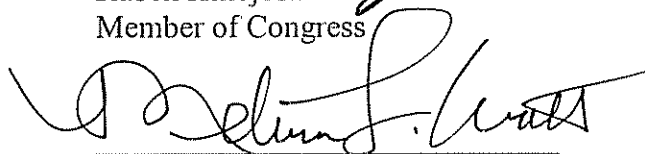
  
Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

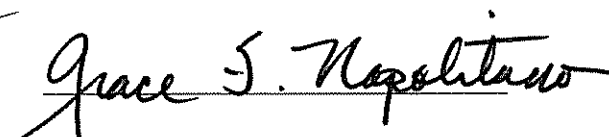
  
George Miller  
Member of Congress


  
Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress


  
Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

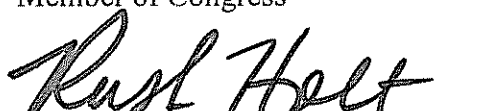
  
David Wu  
Member of Congress

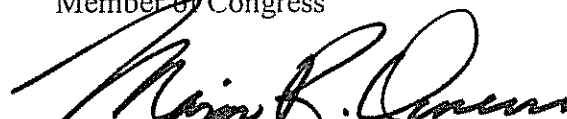
  
Melvin L. Watt  
Member of Congress

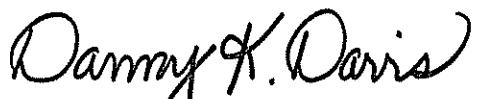
  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress


  
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

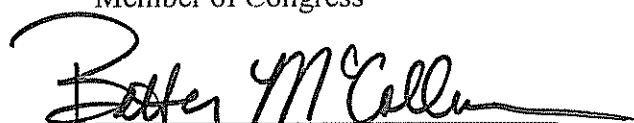
  
Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress

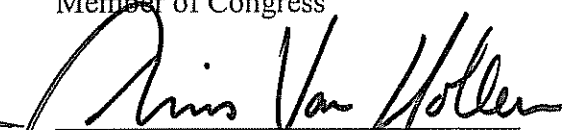
  
Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress

  
Major R. Owens  
Member of Congress


  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress

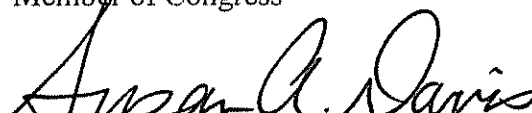
  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress


  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress


  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

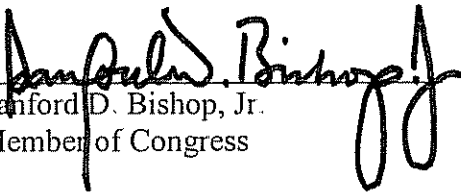
  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress


  
Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress

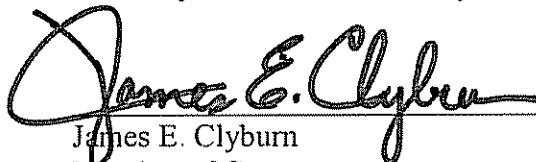
  
Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

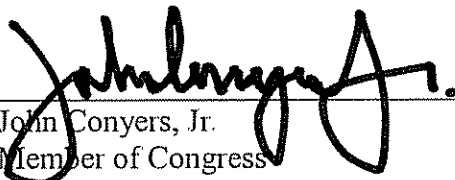
  
Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

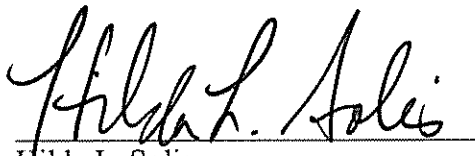
  
Diane E. Watson  
Member of Congress

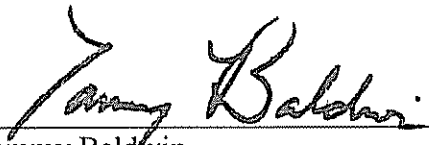
  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress


  
Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress

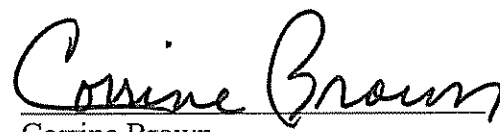
  
James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress

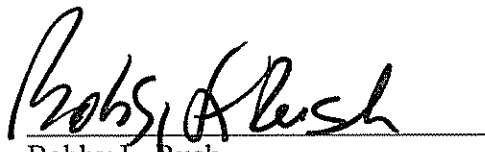
  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Hilda L. Solis  
Member of Congress

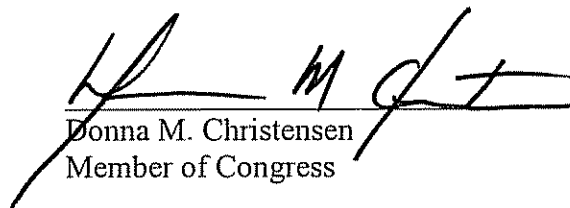
  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

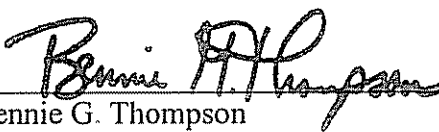
  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

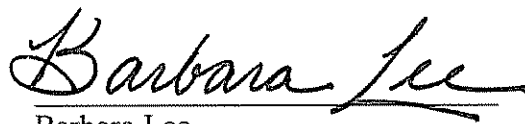
  
Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress


  
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

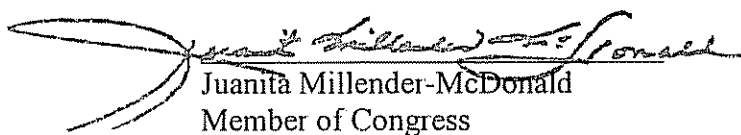
  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

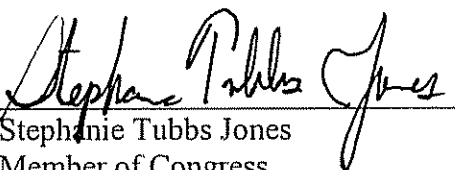
  
Donna M. Christensen  
Member of Congress

  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

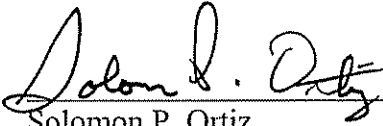
  
Cynthia McKinney  
Member of Congress

  
Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Member of Congress

  
Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee  
Member of Congress



Solomon P. Ortiz  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



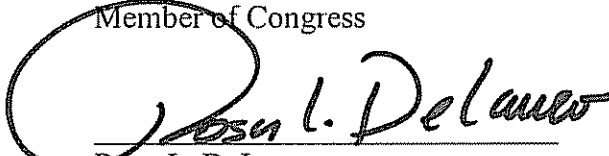
Albert Russell Wynn  
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



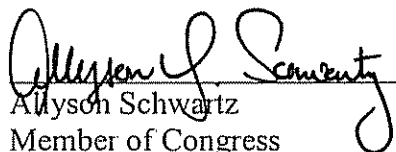
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress




Benjamin L. Cardin  
Member of Congress



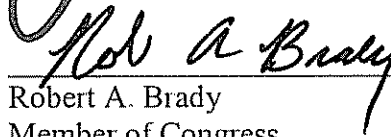
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



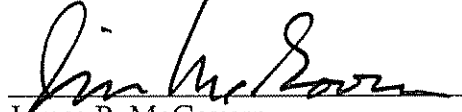
Alyson Schwartz  
Member of Congress



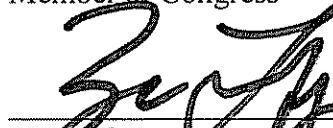
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



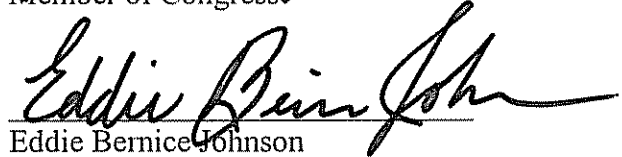
Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



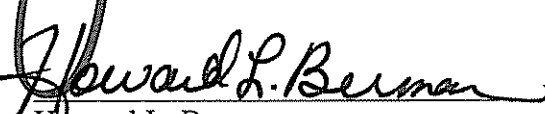
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



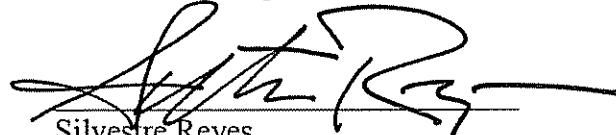
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



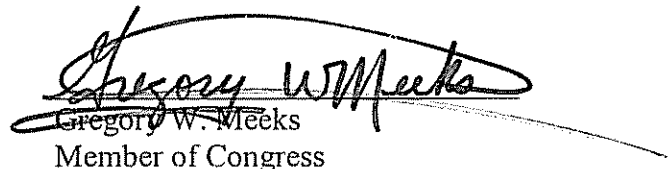
Howard L. Berman  
Member of Congress



Silvestre Reyes  
Member of Congress

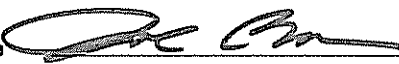


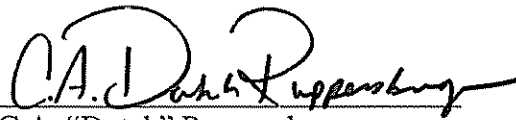
Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress

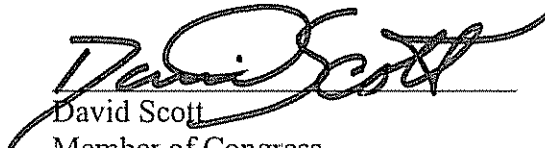


Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

  
Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Baca  
Member of Congress

  
C.A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress

  
David Scott  
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